



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

COMMISSION FOR THE PROJECT AUTHORITY

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

August 22, 2003

GENERAL MANAGER

P. JOSEPH GRINDSTAFF

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chair, Subcommittee on Water and Power
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support of HR 2828 the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act

Dear Chairman Calvert:

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) has been working with stakeholders in the watershed and throughout California on implementation of the Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP). Upon review of your bill, HR 2828 the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, our commission supports the bill and its concepts. We also greatly appreciate your continued efforts to support comprehensive planning and water resources management projects for California and the nation.

Your recent hearings highlighted the need for local projects and for supporting the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We look forward to a CALFED Bay-Delta Program that address all needs, including water quality improvements, ecosystem restoration, and water supply reliability.

Like CALFED, the IWP draws a balance working on both regional environmental restoration and wetlands and water quality improvements and groundwater storage to help the region and the state survive drought times. Additionally, SAWPA has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on a Southern California Comprehensive Water Reclamation and Reuse Study (SCCWRRS) that identifies significant opportunities for reclamation and reuse that lead to supplies of new water. Additionally, the IWP includes brackish desalting and groundwater cleanup that significantly expand our regional resources. We feel your Competitive Grant Program will significantly accelerate the projects that make up these innovative programs.

We believe with federal support for these goals in CALFED, SCCWRRS, and the IWP, California will be better able to live within its 4.4 million acre feet in the Colorado River System and support the needs and efforts of improving wetlands and river systems throughout the state.

Federal authorization for these programs is very important. We appreciate your commitment to moving the process along, because these programs can never realize the benefits without authorization and funding.



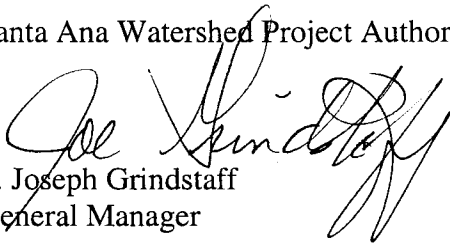
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We applaud the concepts contained in your bill, which included both an authorization of CALFED and a competitive grants program for projects like desalination and water recycling projects. Moving forward with a grants program for desalination and recycling will complement the CALFED Program.

As always, SAWPA and its member agencies appreciate the opportunity to work with you, and extend our thanks for your on-going interest. We appreciate your continued leadership on water issues.

Sincerely,

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority



P. Joseph Grindstaff
General Manager

PJG:DC:pb

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Honorable Grace Napolitano, 1609 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
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Honorable Loretta Sanchez, 1230 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
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Honorable Dianne Feinstein, 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
Honorable Barbara Boxer, 112 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510

SAWPA Member Agencies:

Western Municipal Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
Orange County Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency